



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, 1<sup>st</sup> District

February 3, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager  
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

## **SUP. LIPSCOMB STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Milwaukee, WI** – 1<sup>st</sup> District Milwaukee County Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb released the following statement in response to the State of Wisconsin's decision to take over management of Milwaukee County's economic support services:

"The County Executive has not managed economic support functions effectively. Rather than working with Milwaukee County to solve these problems, the State intends to strip Milwaukee County of all economic support oversight. If the County's contract is terminated, County taxpayers will still be on the hook for employee wages and fringe benefits, including pension and health care legacy costs.

"I am not aware that the State plans to appropriate any additional resources for Milwaukee County's economic support programs after the contract is terminated. There is no evidence that a State takeover of economic support will ensure results that are any better than what we've seen under Milwaukee County. Growing demand virtually ensures more resources will be needed no matter who runs the operation.

"I believe this action from the State sets a bad precedent. In this case, the State is announcing something it cannot currently accomplish. The State does not have the authority to take over the operation of economic support programs without altering State Statutes and further degrading the relationship between the State and counties. Where counties regularly complain about unfunded mandates, now the State proposes to mandate and manage but our property taxpayers will foot the bill."

###